States	Seasons	
	1998-99	1999-2000
A.P.	5	6
Karnataka	2	3
Tamil Nadu	—	
Kerala	1	1
TOTAL	54	68

Allocation of sugar for sale through PDS

1680. SHRI AM .R SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 40 per cent of sugar produced by Sugar Mills is earmarked for sale through the Public Distribution System at reserved price;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in addition to that, another 20,000 tonnes can also be released at the discretion of the Minister; if so, how much quantity has been released under the discretionary power during the last two years and the cost involved therein; and

(c) whether Government had decided to do away with this discretionary quota of sugar release ; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) With effect from 1st January, 2000, 30% of the sugar production of the sugar mills is procured as levy for sale through Public Distribution System at the ex-factory levy sugar price fixed by the Government. Before 1st January, 2000, 40% of the sugar production was procured as levy for sale through Public Distribution System at the ex-factory levy sugar price fixed by the Government.

(b) Out of the freesale portion of the sugar of the sugar factories, 20,000 tonnes of sugar per month was ear-marked for release as an additional freesale quota to the sugar factories as per the prescribed guidelines. The price of freesale sugar varies from place to place and time to time and, therefore, it is not possible

to indicate the value of the additional freesale quota during the last 2 years.

(c) With effect from 01.01.2000, Government has done away with the release of additional freesale sugar over and above the pro-rata allotment of sugar to the sugar mills. However, the sugar mills having no working capital from the banks are being considered under prescribed guidelines for release of advance freesale quota within their respective overall yearly prorated entitlement of freesale sugar.

Food subsidy for people below poverty line

1681. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of food subsidy provided by Government for the families living below the poverty line;

(b) whether the subsidy provided is quite enough; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to enhance the subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Estimated quantity of wheat and rice issued in the Public Distribution System to families below the poverty line during the period from 1st April, 1999 to 31st March, 2000 is likely to be 21.63 lakhs tonnes of wheat and 35.81 lakh tonnes of rice. The element of subsidy involved is Rs. 3635.31 crores.

(b) and (c) The percentage of subsidy for wheat and rice is 16.6% and 35.5% respectively of the total subsidy on TPDS. Quantity of foodgrains distributed under PDS is supplemental in nature. As such it is difficult to qualify the adequacy of subsidy given on foodgrains distributed under PDS.

National policy on Sugar Industry

†1682. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER